

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, claims 1-6 were pending in the application, of which claim 1 is independent. In the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 2, 4 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten to include all limitations from the base claim. Following this response, Claim 1 remains in this application, claims 2-6 are canceled and new claims 7-10 are presented where claims 7 and 10 are independent. Applicant hereby addresses the Examiner's objections and rejections of the claims in turn.

Claim 1

In the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 5 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,066 (Okada et al.). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the additional limitations from now canceled dependent claim 2, which was expressly noted as being allowable if re-written to include all limitations from the base claim. As a result and in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have canceled claim 2 and hereby present amended claim 1 for reconsideration and allowance.

Claims 2-6

As mentioned above, Applicants canceled claims 2-6.

Claims 7-10

In further accord with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants present new independent claim 7, which corresponds to now canceled dependent claim 3 and the limitations from its base claim (original claim 1). The Examiner expressly noted that claim 3 would be allowable if re-written to include all limitations from the base claim (original claim 1) as proposed herein. Accordingly, Applicants request consideration and allowance of new claim 7.

Furthermore, due at least to their dependency upon claim 7, Applicants further request consideration and allowance of new dependent claims 8 and 9 that correspond to canceled claims 4 and 5, respectively.

Applicants also present new independent claim 10, which corresponds to now canceled dependent claim 6 and the limitations from its base claim (original claim 1). The Examiner expressly noted that claim 6 would be allowable if re-written to include all limitations from the base claim (original claim 1) as proposed herein. Accordingly, Applicants request consideration and allowance of new claim 10.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

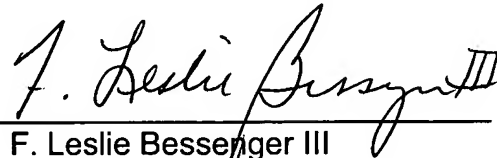
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 17, 2005

By: _____


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